

SAINT STEPHEN'S CHURCH

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND



MICHAELMAS

THE FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

SOLEMN EVENSONG & BENEDICTION

24 SEPTEMBER 2023

WELCOME TO SAINT STEPHEN'S and this service of Choral Evensong. Since the earliest days of the Church, Christians have sought to mark the times of day with prayer and praise. Evensong is but one part of the worship offered to God by Christian people every hour of the day and night, in every part of the world. For a brief moment, you step into the continual stream of worship which is being offered today and which will be offered to the end of time. Evensong is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its primary purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in history and in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Much of the English of the service is the language spoken and written by our spiritual ancestors more than four hundred years ago. It may sound old-fashioned, but its meaning is not out of date.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament which concludes Evensong is a prolonged time "outside of time." The moment the priest elevates the consecrated Host displayed in such lavish array is a moment where Christ extends his blessing upon us through his Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament. For a prolonged moment, we are permitted to simply gaze and adore, and to receive his blessing and love, which we then respond to by praising and blessing God.

If you are new or visiting today, please know how welcome you are in this community of faith. We are young and old, rich and poor, married, single and divorced, straight and gay, confident in our faith and full of questions. But the thing we share is a love of Jesus, and a desire to grow in love of God, neighbor, and self. The center of our common life is worship, and I hope you will join us for a Sunday service again soon.

Fr. Benjamin

Fr. Benjamin Straley, *Rector*

BEFORE THE SERVICE

L. Graham Schultz plays

Magnificat primi toni, BuxWV 203

Dietrich Buxtehude (c. 1637–1707)

Sonata in E flat major (1937)

Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

- I. Andante serioso, ma con moto
- II. Allegro giocoso
- III. Maestoso

ORDER *of* SERVICE

This afternoon's is sung by the S. Stephen's Schola together with the Choir School of Newport County, Peter Stoltzfus Berton, director.

¶ All stand at the ringing of the bell.

OPENING SENTENCES

I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the Elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. *Revelation 5:11-12*

PRECES & RESPONSES *¶ Sung by the choir.*

Jessica French (b. 1984)

- ✠ O Lord, ✠ open thou our lips.
✠ And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
✠ O God, ✠ make speed to save us.
✠ O Lord, make haste to help us.
✠ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
✠ As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
✠ Praise ye the Lord.
✠ The Lord's Name be praised.

¶ The people are seated as the choir sings

PSALM 103

Benedic, anima mea Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)

Praise the Lord, O my soul :
and all that is within me praise his holy Name.
Praise the Lord, O my soul :
and forget not all his benefits;
Who forgiveth all thy sin :
and healeth all thine infirmities;
Who saveth thy life from destruction :
and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness;
Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things :
making thee young and lusty as an eagle.
The Lord executeth righteousness and judgement :
for all them that are oppressed with wrong.

He shewed his ways unto Moses :
his works unto the children of Israel.
The Lord is full of compassion and mercy :
long-suffering, and of great goodness.
He will not always be chiding :
neither keepeth he his anger for ever.
He hath not dealt with us after our sins :
nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.
For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth :
so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.
Look how wide also the east is from the west :
so far hath he set our sins from us.
Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children :
even so is the Lord merciful unto them that fear him.
For he knoweth whereof we are made :
he remembereth that we are but dust.
The days of man are but as grass :
for he flourisheth as a flower of the field.
For as soon as the wind goeth over it, it is gone :
and the place thereof shall know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever and ever upon them
that fear him :
and his righteousness upon children's children;
Even upon such as keep his covenant :
and think upon his commandments to do them.
The Lord hath prepared his seat in heaven :
and his kingdom ruleth over all.
O praise the Lord, ye angels of his, ye that excel in strength :
ye that fulfil his commandment, and hearken unto the voice of his words.
O praise the Lord, all ye his hosts :
ye servants of his that do his pleasure.
O speak good of the Lord, all ye works of his, in all places of his dominion :
praise thou the Lord, O my soul.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, :
world without end. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON*Daniel 12:1-3*

At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time; but at that time your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

¶ All stand for the singing of

HYMN 282

CÆLITES PLAUDANT

MAGNIFICAT*Collegium Regale*

Herbert Howells (1892-1982)

My soul ✠ doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers. Abraham and his seed, for ever. Glory be &c.

THE SECOND LESSON *¶ All sit.**Mark 13:21-17*

Jesus said to the disciples, "And then if any one says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. False Christs and false prophets will arise and show signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But take heed; I have told you all things beforehand. "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

¶ All stand.

Lord, ✠ now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people : To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be &c.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED *¶ Sung by all.*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell: The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost: The Holy Catholic Church: the Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body, ✠ And the Life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS *¶ Sung by the choir.*

Jessica French

Priest The Lord be with you.

Answer And with thy spirit.

Priest Let us pray.

¶ The people kneel as the choir sings

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed by thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

✠ O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

✠ And grant us thy salvation.

✠ O Lord, save the State.

✠ And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

✠ Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

✠ And make thy chose people joyful.

✠ O Lord, save thy people.

✠ And bless thine inheritance.

℣ Give peace in our time, O Lord.

℟ Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

℣ O God, make clean our hearts within us.

℟ And take not thy holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT FOR SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

O everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and men in a wonderful order: Mercifully grant that, as thy holy angels always serve and worship thee in heaven, so by thy appointment they may help and defend us on earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

THE SECOND COLLECT

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE THIRD COLLECT

L ighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE GRACE

T he Grace ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

℟ An offering will be taken during the Anthem for the music program at S. Stephen's. Our evening choral services are funded entirely outside our operating budget through the generosity of our parishioners, friends, and visitors. We appreciate your support.

To make an electronic gift today, please either visit sstephens.org/donate or scan the QR code with your smart phone's camera.



THE ANTHEM

William Mathias (1934–1992)

Let the people praise thee, O God;
Yea, let all the people praise thee.

O let the nations rejoice and be glad,

For thou shalt judge the folk righteously,
And govern the nations upon earth.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,
And God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.

God shall bless us and all the ends of the world shall fear him.
God be merciful unto us, and bless us:

And shew us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us,
That thy way may be known upon earth:

Thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God;

Yea let all the people praise thee.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :

and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, :
world without end. Amen.

Psalm 67



BENEDICTION *of the* BLESSED SACRAMENT

¶ The people kneel when the bell is rung after which all sing

O SALUTARIS HOSTIA

WAREHAM



1. O saving victim, opening wide
The gate of heaven to man below,
Our foes press on from every side,
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.
2. All praise and thanks to thee ascend
For evermore, blest One in Three;
O grant us life that shall not end,
In our true native land with thee. Amen.

¶ Here follows a period of silence after which all sing

TANTUM ERGO

GRAFTON



1. Therefore we, before him bending,
This great Sacrament revere;
Types and shadows have their ending,
For the newer rite is here;
Faith, our outward sense befriending,
Makes our inward vision clear.
2. Glory let us give and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
Honor, thanks, and praise addressing,
While eternal ages run;
Ever too his love confessing
Who from both with both is One. Amen.

¶ Thou gavest them Bread from heaven.

¶ **Containing in itself all sweetness.**

Priest Let us pray.

O God, who in a wonderful Sacrament has left unto us a Memorial of Thy Passion; Grant us, we beseech Thee, so to venerate the Sacred Mysteries of Thy Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of Thy redemption; who livest and reignest, world without end. **Amen.**

¶ The Priest makes the Sign of the Cross over the Congregation with the Blessed Sacrament.

THE DIVINE PRAISES *¶ Said by the Priest and repeated by the Congregation.*

Blessed be God.
Blessed be his Holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
Blessed be his Most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar.
Blessed be the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Incarnate Word.
Blessed be God in his Angels and in his Saints.

¶ The bell is rung as the Priest places the Sacrament back in the tabernacle and all stand.

PSALM 117 *Laudate Dominum* arr. Jeffrey Smith (b. 1960)

¶ Sung first by the choir, then repeated by all

Let us a - dore for ev - er the Most Ho - ly Sac - ra - ment. ___

Choir O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him all ye peoples. For his merciful kindness is ever more and more toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise the LORD. Glory be &c.

Let us a - dore for ev - er the Most Ho - ly Sac - ra - ment. ___

VOLUNTARY

Improvisation

If you are new or visiting, please take a moment to fill out a Visitor Information Card and deposit it in the offering plate as it comes by. Welcome to S. Stephen's!



Please join us for a wine and cheese reception in the Guild House following the service.



A hearty welcome to Peter Stoltzfus Berton and the Choir School of Newport County who are joining with the S. Stephen's Schola Cantorum for this afternoon's service.



To keep up to date on all that is happening at S. Stephen's please sign up for our weekly E-news at ssteophens.org. Please join us for one of our Sunday Masses at 8am & 10am.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, October 22nd at 4pm ✠ *Solemn Evensong & Benediction*

The S. Stephen's Schola sings Charles Villiers Stanford's ebullient setting of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* in A major together with Gerre Hancock's rousing anthem, *Judge Eternal*. The service is preceded by an organ recital at 3:30pm played by Patrick Aiken, Organist & Choir Director of Central Congregational Church, Providence. A wine and cheese reception follows.

Sunday, November 12th at 10am ✠ *Solemn Requiem Mass for Remembrance Sunday*

S. Stephen's annual remembrance of all the faithful departed will this year be accompanied by Franco-Flemish master, Orlando di Lasso's *Missa pro defunctis* for five voices. The choir will be joined by a consort of sackbuts and cornetti.

Sunday, December 3rd at 4pm ✠ *A Service of Advent Lessons & Carols*

A candle-lit service evoking the joyful expectation of the season. The S. Stephen's Schola will sing works of Palestrina, Poston, Nixon, Lloyd, Roihl, Parsons & Wood. The service is preceded by an organ recital at 3:30pm played by Davids Heinze, Associate Director of Music at Grace Church, Providence. A festive reception follows.

S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

FOUNDED 1837

VESTRY

Thomas Bledsoe, *Senior Warden*

Robert Rose, *Junior Warden*

Gregory DePardo, *Treasurer*

Molly Bledsoe Ellis, *Clerk*

Karl Benziger

Lynne deBenedette

Jennifer DePardo

Muriel Jobbers

Ruth Oliver Jolliffe

Julia Steiny

Louis Verdelotti

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Fr. Benjamin Straley, *Rector*

The Rev'd Fr. William Locke, *Assisting Priest*

The Rev'd Fr. Michael A. Pearson, *Assisting Priest*

The Rev'd Mtr. Veronica Tierney, *Assisting Priest*

L. Graham Schultz, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Andrew Lonardo, *Sexton*

Kiersten Marek, *Nursery Childcare Provider*

James Busby, *Organist & Choirmaster Emeritus*